(c) whether the project involve the local people in setting up of infrastructural facilities; and

(d) if so, the details of infrastructural facilities set up and people trained in the villages of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories including Uttar Pradesh for infrastructure development in rural sites under the Scheme of Product/ Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits. Activities pertaining to community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are being supported through Government of India-United Nation's Development Programme Endogenous Tourism Project and the Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry.

The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages, which have core-competencies such as culture, craft, handlooms and textile.

(b) An amount of Rs.333.75 lakh was sanctioned for seven rural tourism sites in the first year of the Tenth Plan.

(c) and (d) The details of Central Financial Assistance extended to Government of Uttar Pradesh for development of infrastructure facilities and capacity building of local communities are as follows:

(1) Rs. 49.52 lakh was sanctioned in the year 2005-06 for infrastructure Development at Bhitar Gram.

(2) Rs. 45.89 lakh was sanctioned in the year 2005-06 for infrastructure development at village Mukhrai.

(3) Rs. 50.00 lakh was sanctioned in the year 2007-08 for infrastructure development at village Bhaguwala.

(4) Rs. 20.00 lakh was sanctioned in the year 2004-05 for capacity building at village Bhaguwala.

Hot-air balloon tourism

74. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to start hot-air balloon tourism for commercial tourism purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the State/regions where the project is proposed to be launched and whether it would also cover the Buddhist Centres of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots including promotion of adventure tourism/hot-air ballooning is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. However, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for development of tourism including adventure tourism,

on the basis of the proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

Tourism potential in Uttar Pradesh

75. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the vast and varied tourism potential of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the places/units which have been identified for being developed as potential tourists spots during the Eleventh Five year Plan;

(d) whether any integrated planning has been done for development of these places;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total allocation proposed to be made on these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the Scheme of 'Product/ Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

It is further stated that amounts of Rs. 9604.88 lakh and Rs. 2738.32 lakh have been sanctioned for development and promotion of tourism in Uttar Pradesh during the Tenth Plan period and during the current financial year respectively.

Requirement of hotels before Commonwealth Games

76. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of hotel rooms before the 2010 Commonwealth Games;

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that required rooms are constructed on time;

(c) whether there is a shortage of funds pounded by the rupee appreciation in recent months; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to augment the funds for tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has assessed that NCR Delhi would require approximately 40,000 hotel rooms to meet the requirement of the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

(b) Ministry of Tourism is in constant touch with the various Land Owning Agencies like DDA, Ministry of Urban Development, Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, etc. to identify additional hotel sites. These agencies and the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh have also